At this point, let us return a few millennia to our Epoch of his majesty the Ego called the Anthropocene, which many humanists have taken up as a critical perspective in order to “de-center” the anthropocentric presence of the Subject in its opening to the material universe. This de-centering operation usually involves a supplanting of the Subject by absence, which often assumes the form of a speculative thesis involving time on a planetary or even paleontological scale, as in the case of Quentin Meillassoux’s arche-fossil (Meillassoux, *After Finitude*, 2008). Thus, absence is no longer determined in relation to “consciousness of,” as in
phenomenology, but rather in terms of the “not yet, or the no longer” of the Subject.

The question that concerns us is “what,” or rather, “where is time,” or more specifically, whether the theme of time and temporality could even be possible.

To illustrate this perspective, rather than turning to Meillassoux’s duration of an ancestral past demonstrated in the facticity of the arche-fossil, I will return to Lyotard, who in the mid-1980’s in a series of reflections on the inhuman (Lyotard, The Inhuman: Reflections on Time, 1991), speculated on the absence that occurs 4.5 billion years in the future – when the sun has exploded and the earth and all of its inhabitants no longer exist.

GREGG LAMBERT

After completing his Ph.D, under the direction of late French philosopher Jacques Derrida, Professor Lambert joined the Department of English at Syracuse University in 1996, and was later appointed to Full Professor and Chair of English in 2005. In 2008, he was appointed as the Founding Director of the Humanities Center, where he currently holds a distinguished research appointment as Dean’s Professor of Humanities in the College of Arts and Sciences.

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In addition to the Humanities Corridor, he has also directed several other major multi-institutional research and interdisciplinary initiatives, including the Society for the Study of Biopolitical Futures (with Cary Wolfe, Rice University), the Trans-Disciplinary Media Studio (with SU School of Architecture) and The Perpetual Peace Project, a multi-lateral curatorial initiative partnered with Slought Foundation (Philadelphia), the European Union National Institutes of Culture, the International Peace Institute, and
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Author of eleven books, critical editions, and more than a hundred articles in journals and critical editions, Professor Lambert is internationally renowned for his scholarly writings on critical theory, philosophy, the role of the Humanities in the contemporary university, and; especially for his work on the French philosophers Gilles Deleuze and Jacques Derrida.

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